



## **Youthful Offender Block Grant FAQ's**

**If we do not spend our funds by June 30, 2008, will these funds revert back to the State?**

No. Based upon Welfare & Institutions Code Sections 1950 - 1962, and an opinion from the California Department of Finance, there is no requirement that the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) funds be reverted back to the State if they are not expended by a date certain within any fiscal year. The only exception is for the 5 percent YOBG funds held in arrears, but not disbursed, for the unforeseen circumstances leading to demonstrated financial hardship during the 2007-08 fiscal year.

Therefore, failure by a county to utilize the funds within a particular fiscal year will not result in funds reverting back to the state. However, YOBG funds must be spent by counties only for the purposes specified in W&I Code Section 1950 et seq. or for purposes that meet the legislative intent of the Youthful Offender realignment.

**Are there provisions for application extensions beyond the January 1, 2008 deadline?**

No. By statute, counties must submit to the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) their Juvenile Justice Development Plan by January 1, 2008. However, counties may submit modifications to the Plan after the deadline by submitting a cover letter explaining the circumstances and submitting amended Budget (3a) and Project Narrative (3b) forms. Modifications must be sent to CSA whenever a budgeted line item is modified more than 10% or there are substantive changes to the scope of the project (e.g. target groups, interventions, sub-contractors, etc).

**Are there restrictions on the amounts or percentages of YOBG funds a county can spend on administrative costs or other line item expenditures?**

No. There are no guidelines for percentages of block grant funding used for administrative costs or other budgeted items. So long as the expenditures are used for the purposes intended by the legislature (see WIC 1950 – 1962) and in keeping with the intent of the Youthful Offender realignment, counties may make their own decisions with regard to how the money is utilized.

**Is this the only year Counties are required to submit a Juvenile Justice Development Plan?**

Yes. Unless the legislature takes action to require counties to submit another Juvenile Justice Development Plan in subsequent years, this is the only time counties will be required to submit an application for the YOBG funding.

**What is the data collection or reporting requirement for YOBG?**

Unless the legislature takes action, counties are not required to collect data or submit reports to the Corrections Standards Authority.

**Our county wants to fund programs that are not funded by Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) grant funds. Therefore, it is difficult for our county to show coordination between JJCPA and YOBG funds for certain projects. Can we still use YOBG funds for purposes where JJCPA and YOBG funds are not coordinated?**

Yes. As outlined in the instructions, the purpose of the Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) is to enhance the capacity of local communities to implement an effective continuum of response to juvenile crime and delinquency. Allocations from the Youthful Offender Block Grant Fund must be used to enhance the capacity of county probation, mental health, drug and alcohol, and other county departments to provide appropriate rehabilitative and supervision services to youthful offenders subject to Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) Sections 731.1, 733, 1766, and 1767.35. Therefore, if JJCPA funds are not used for the strategies described above, counties are allowed to expend YOBG funds for those enhancements described above. Counties must only describe how these new programs coordinate with programs funded by JJCPA and are not constrained by a requirement that they link funds.

**Are Counties supposed to include JJCPA funds in the budget line items in Section 3a?**

No. Only include in the budget, YOBG funds and local funds committed to the programs, placements, services or strategies in the Juvenile Justice Development Plan. JJCPA should be referenced in Sections 3b and 3c as narrative responses to show existing county programs, placements, services or strategies and the coordination between JJCPA funded activities and YOBG funded activities.

**Are allocations for funding for subsequent years established?**

No. There are formulas outlined in Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 1952 - 1956, but the Department of Finance has not yet made the calculations.